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was celebrating his selection as President of the U.S. Olympic Committee.

Mr. Speaker, if God permitted us to choose our time and place for passing, Jack Kelly certainly would have chosen a point close to the river and sport he loved. Only the time was wrong; at 57, Jack Kelly had so much more to give.

On a personal level, Mr. Speaker, I have lost a very dear friend of 43 years. Jack Kelly will be memorialized this coming Friday at Memorial Hall in Fairmount Park in Philadelphia. The delegations traveling to the park to pay their final respects will be large and diverse, as was Jack Kelly's influence and respect among colleagues and acquaintances. ●

graph "misclassifies innocent people as liars." In a memo to Secretary Weinberger, Dr. John Beary cited that the machines can only detect stress, not lies. In one study cited by Dr. Beary, 49 percent of truthful subjects were scored as deceptive. In another, 55 percent of the innocent were misclassified as liars. In a 1974 test conducted for the U.S. Army Land Warfare Laboratory, Dr. Joseph Kubis found that polygraph test results alone had only the same accuracy rate as the personal judgments of the same examiners based on observations without test results.

Which brings us to the critical question: What are the physiological symptoms of a lie? Is it the heart-rate, blood pressure, and galvanic skin response that polygraph operators suggest, or is it some as yet undiscovered physiological response? How about the length of one's nose? The truth is, Mr. Speaker, that there is no universal physiological response indicative of lies, and the peddlers of these services and equipment should be sent the way of palm readers and soothsayers. Jobs are too valuable, and in today's economy, too scarce, to be lost due to the misclassification of a physiological response.

The horror stories of polygraph abuse are numerable. One or two examples might prove useful as illustrations of the problem. One pregnant woman inquired if the test would affect her baby, and the polygrapher responded that "I can't make any promises." She refused the test, and was fired. Many potential employees have been asked questions dealing with sexual habits and partners, political and religious beliefs, and feelings about unions.

The State prohibitions are wholly inadequate to protect workers from the polygraph. Some States only proscribe requiring a test, not requesting a test. But the result for those who refuse to take the test is the same—no job. Many employers skirt State law simply by hiring in a neighboring State with no prohibition then "transferring" the employee into the State which has polygraph restrictions. For example, employees in Maryland and the District can be hired in Virginia where they are polygraphed, then transferred into the jurisdiction which prohibits such testing.

Mr. Speaker, the Polygraph Protection Act simply prohibits the use of truth verification devices in the workplace, for both pre-employment testing and testing in the course of employment. It requires the posting on the premises of employers engaged in interstate commerce of notice sufficient to effectuate the purposes of this Act. It provides for remedies as found in the Fair Labor Standards Act as amended. It does not apply to any individual employed by the U.S. Government, nor would it apply to State or local government employees.

The growing problem of polygraph testing has been treated as a constitutional issue, a privacy issue, and a civil rights issue. But the vast majority of polygraph tests administered in the United States today are employment related, and this issue has become, first and foremost, one of employment opportunities. Polygraphs have become vehicles for employee intimidation, and for screening out employees of political or union beliefs different from those of a particular manager. This bill assumes people have a right to privacy, but only focuses on the abuse of that right in the workplace. The time has come for outright prohibition of these inaccurate and intrusive machines from the workplace.

The courts in this country refuse to admit polygraph results as evidence in trials because of the documented inaccuracies of the machines. It is sadly ironic that criminals are protected from the polygraph, while American workers are not. It is time we prevent innocent employees from being "convicted" and deprived of their livelihoods through methods we would not even apply to murderers.

The Privacy Protection Study Commission, established by Congress in 1974, reported in 1977 that truth verification devices are "an unreasonable invasion of privacy that should be summarily proscribed." The Commission recommended that a Federal law should be passed forbidding the use of the devices in employment settings, and further recommended the banning of the manufacture and sale of the devices. It is time to begin implementation of the Commission recommendations by removing these insidious devices from the workplace.

Joining me today introducing this legislation are some of my colleagues from the Education and Labor Committee, from both sides of the aisle. We hope to have hearings early this spring to begin a legislative process that will bring an end to this intimidating and abusive testing of employees.

[The bill follows:]

H.R. 1524

A bill to prevent the denial of employment opportunities by prohibiting the use of lie detectors by employers involved in or affecting interstate commerce.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Polygraph Protection Act of 1985".

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

It is the purpose of this Act to prevent the denial of employment opportunities based on the use of instrumentation designed to detect deception or verify truth of statement. This Act shall be construed to prohibit the use of all such instrumentation on employees, agents, prospective employees and prospective agents.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITIONS ON LIE DETECTOR USE.

No employer or other person engaged in any business in or affecting interstate com-

THE POLYGRAPH PROTECTION ACT OF 1985

HON. PAT WILLIAMS

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 1985

● Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to prevent the preclusion of employment opportunities by prohibiting the use of polygraphs and other so-called lie detectors in the workplace. The polygraph, or lie detector, has received much publicity recently since Representative Brooks of Texas introduced H.R. 39, a bill relating to the administration of polygraph examinations and prepublication review requirements by Federal agencies. While Federal Government workers currently have some protection from polygraph examinations, and they may win even greater protection with the passage of Representative Brooks' bill, private sector employees and job applicants have no such Federal protections whatsoever.

Nineteen States and the District of Columbia have, in one form or another, limited polygraph examinations in the workplace, and yet the number of employees and job applicants who are required to submit to these tests is increasing dramatically. The estimated number of polygraph examinations administered annually in the private sector alone ranges from 200,000 to 500,000. In a November 1983 study of the scientific validity of polygraph testing, the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment cited an estimate of over 1 million polygraph examinations administered each year. It has been estimated that at least 50,000 workers per year are wrongfully denied employment either because they refuse to take the tests or because of the inherent inaccuracies of the tests.

Mr. Speaker, this widespread use of polygraph examinations in the workplace has reached shocking proportions despite evidence of the inaccuracy of such tests. The Defense Department's own Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs warned that the poly-

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the cries for help from such transit country whose shores lie haplessly close to those of the United States and therefore have become the unwilling major center for the breakdown from large shipments into smaller shipping units that can more easily be slipped ashore on the coastline of the United States.

That country, requesting coordination with our enforcement forces, is the Bahamas. By working with Bahamian officials, our DEA, Customs and Coast Guard could assist in interdicting these large shipments of drugs before they are broken down into smaller hard-to-detect delivery packets.

The wording in H.R. 962 which would expand the Mansfield amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act would make an exception of the prohibitions in the amendment to include the Bahamas.

Since cosponsoring H.R. 962, it has come to my attention that there are other countries that have similar status as transit countries who will need a similar exception to the amendment. I urge that these transit countries be given careful attention and that you, as colleagues, may wish to add information on additional countries. I urge that this issue be examined carefully through testimony at hearings on H.R. 962.

Our swift and adequate cooperation and assistance to our willing partner countries is imperative if we are to reduce their endangered status and effectively reduce the traffic of deadly drugs to our shores.●

TRIBUTE TO FORMER U.S. ALABAMA SENATOR LISTER HILL

HON. RICHARD C. SHELBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 1985

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. Speaker, the State of Alabama and the Nation suffered a great loss with the death of former U.S. Senator Lister Hill on December 20, 1984. It is my privilege today to offer a tribute to the memory of this outstanding gentleman.

Not many people achieve the measure of admiration and respect that Lister Hill enjoyed. He earned that admiration and respect because he genuinely cared about people and about the welfare of his State and country.

In his 45 years on Capitol Hill, including 15 years in this body, Lister Hill became the strongest voice in Congress for his unflagging support for health and education. He became chairman of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee, with responsibility for health and education bills. He also chaired the subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee that handled the budget for the old Department of Health, Education and Welfare. He was the "father" of the National Institutes of Health.

One of his landmark achievements was the Hill-Burton Act of 1946. Through this piece of legislation, more than 9,200 medical facilities have been built with Federal assistance, many of them in poor and rural areas. Lister Hill supported such programs as Medicare and Medicaid and Social Security.

The first bill providing Federal aid to education passed Congress in 1958. The chief credit was given to the Alabama Senator, who had championed such legislation since his days in the House.

Senator Hill knew that we grow, gain strength and provide opportunities for our people by a proper development of our resources. In this respect, he was a pioneer in pushing for the establishment of the Tennessee Valley Authority. A supporter of the New Deal of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Senator Hill was a sponsor of some of the major programs of the 1930's and 1940's, including the Rural Housing Act, the Rural Telephone Act and the GI bill of rights for veterans of World War II and the Korean conflict.

Senator Hill took his seat in the U.S. House of Representatives on August 14, 1923, after a special election. He was appointed to the U.S. Senate on January 19, 1938, to fill the unexpired term of Hugo Black, who had been appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court. When Senator Hill retired on January 3, 1969, having declined to seek reelection, he had served in Congress longer than any other Alabamian.

Lister Hill was born into a prosperous family on December 29, 1894, in Montgomery. His father, Dr. Luther Leonidas Hill, was a physician and surgeon who had studied in England with Joseph Lister, who introduced antiseptic surgery.

Named for his father's teacher, Dr. Hill wanted his son to pursue medicine, but instead Lister turned to law. He proved to be a brilliant student, graduating from the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa in 1914 with a Phi Beta Kappa key. He earned a law degree at Alabama in 1915 and also studied law at the University of Michigan and Columbia University.

In 1916 he opened a law practice in Montgomery. Proud to fight for his country, he served in the Army during the First World War. From 1917 to 1922, before he took his seat in the House, he was president of the Montgomery Board of Education—an experience that later was attributable to his interest in educational matters.

Senator Hill was a powerful force in Congress. He was a rarity—a man who had the vitality and know-how to be extremely effective in getting things done, yet warmth and sensitivity that made him a beloved leader.

Lister Hill's life and his achievements should serve as a memorial to him for all time in Alabama and in this great country of ours, for he truly devoted it to serving the people and profession that he loved.

My heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family he left behind—to his wife, the former Henrietta Fontaine McCormick; to his son, L. Lister Hill; to his daughter, Henrietta Hill Hubbard; to his five grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

In closing, I would just like to say that I think Senator Lister Hill will be viewed by historians as one of the most effective and farsighted political leaders of our time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to present this deserving tribute to the memory of such an outstanding individual, as former Senator Lister Hill.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN B. KELLY, JR.

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 1985

● Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to pay a final tribute to a distinguished Philadelphian, and a man I was privileged and very proud to call my friend, John B. Kelly, Jr. Kell died this past Saturday, returning from a rowing workout on the Schuylkill River.

Most of my colleagues knew Jack Kelly, if not personally, then certainly by reputation as an outstanding Olympic rowing medalist and an enthusiastic promoter of international amateur athletics. Many will remember Jack Kelly for his dedication, inspiration, and financial support of the Philadelphia Vesper Boat Club which won the gold Medal at the 1964 Olympics. Others will remember that Jack Kelly just last month was installed as president of the U.S. Olympic Committee.

But, those of us who knew him well will remember Jack Kelly first and foremost as a Philadelphian. This is a peculiarly appropriate tribute to Jack Kelly. He could, and did, move effortlessly through international circles, whether European royalty or the world's athletic elite. He always made time for his hometown—and home. He didn't have to, but he did. As an elected city councilman, Jack Kelly worried about potholes, trash disposal, low-income housing. When an immigrant beginning to make his way in Philadelphia needed a business hand, Jack Kelly often was there with financial support. When a local civic activity or charity needed a boost, Jack Kelly had the time and the commitment. One local newspaper reported a typical week's schedule for Jack Kelly; it included: Attendance as guest of honor at a benefit for the American Paralysis Association; a meeting of the Philadelphia Special Olympics where he was serving as vice chairman; an event for the Philadelphia Dance Alliance, of which he was president. He took the time and made the effort on behalf of these local activities the same week he

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merce, nor any agent or representative thereof, shall—

(1) directly or indirectly require, request, suggest, permit or cause any employee, agent, prospective employee or prospective agent to take or submit to any lie detector test or examination for any purpose whatsoever;

(2) use, accept, or refer to the results of any lie detector test or examination of any employee, agent, prospective employee or prospective agent for any purpose whatsoever; or

(3) discharge, dismiss, discipline in any manner, or deny employment or promotion, or threaten to do so, to any employee, agent, prospective employee or prospective agent who refuses, declines, or fails to take or submit to any lie detector test or examination.

SEC. 4. NOTICE OF PROTECTION.

The Secretary of Labor shall prepare and have printed a notice setting forth information necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Act. This notice shall be posted at all times in conspicuous places upon the premises of every employer engaged in any business in or affecting interstate commerce.

SEC. 5. RULES AND REGULATIONS.

In accordance with the provisions of subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, the Secretary of Labor shall issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary or appropriate for carrying out this Act.

SEC. 6. AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF LABOR.

The Secretary of Labor shall—

(1) make such delegations, appoint such agents and employees, and pay for such technical assistance on a fee for service basis, as he deems necessary to assist him in the performance of his functions under this Act;

(2) cooperate with regional, State, local, and other agencies, and cooperate with and furnish technical assistance to employers, labor organizations, and employment agencies to aid in effectuating the purposes of this Act; and

(3) make investigations and require the keeping of records necessary or appropriate for the administration of this Act in accordance with the powers and procedures provided in sections 9 and 11 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 209 and 211).

SEC. 7. ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS.

The provisions of this Act shall be enforced in accordance with the powers, remedies, and procedures provided in sections 11(b), 16, and 17 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 211(b), 216, 217). Amounts owing to a person as a result of a violation of this Act shall be deemed to be unpaid minimum wages or unpaid overtime compensation for purposes of sections 16 and 17 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 216, 217).

SEC. 8. NO APPLICATION TO GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES.

The provisions of this Act shall not apply with respect to any individual who is employed by the United States Government, a State government, city, or any political subdivision of a State or city.

SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act—

(1) The term "person" means any natural person, firm, association, partnership, corporation, or any employee or agent thereof.

(2) The term "lie detector" includes but is not limited to any polygraph, deceptograph, voice stress analyzer, psychological stress evaluator, or any other device (whether mechanical, electrical, or chemical) which is used, or the results of which are used, for

the purpose of detecting deception or verifying the truth of statements.

(3) The term "employer" includes an employment agency.

SEC. 10. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The provisions of this Act shall take effect on the date of enactment, except for section 4, which shall take effect six months from the date of enactment.●

SEVENTH ANNUAL BARTENDERS' BALL

HON. WALTER E. FAUNTROY

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 1985

● Mr. FAUNTROY. Mr. Speaker, 10 local charities and nonprofit organizations will be beneficiaries of the proceeds of the Seventh Annual Bartenders' Ball to be held on March 9, 1985. Chosen by the Bartenders' Ball Foundation, the 1985 recipients are: So Others Might Eat [SOME]; Living Stage; Washington Free Clinic; St. John's Development Center; Higher Achievement Program [HAP]; Sunshine Foundation; Heroes, Inc.; Hospital for Sick Children; Shaw Community Center Food Committee; and the Alexandria Community "Y".

The Bartenders' Ball Foundation, Inc., was created in 1982 to formally organize and direct the efforts of what had become one of Washington's largest single-event fundraisers. Proceeds from the 1979 to 1981 balls had been donated to the Leukemia Society of America. However, the foundation felt strongly that the money raised from the ball should be channeled back into the Washington community. Consequently, the 1982 ball proceeds of \$77,000 were distributed to the Leukemia Society and also five locally based charities. Funds raised by the 1984 ball totaled over \$80,000, benefiting 10 local agencies.

The board of directors of the Bartenders' Ball Foundation is comprised of Danny Marshall, Tommy Goss, Eda Boyle Edgerton, Gordon King, Craig Goodman, Steven A. Micheletti and S. Paul Loukas, who are past ball chairpersons as well as leading supporters of the ball. The 1985 Advisory Committee Members are: Michael Anderson, Shooter McGee's Eastport Raw Bar; Michael Maher, Washington, D.C. Restaurant & Beverage Association; Dick Heidenberger and Frank Bate, Bottom Line Madhatter; Robert Giaimo, Sharon Daley and Ype Hengst, American Cafe; Thomas Russo, Chadwicks; Eda Boyle Edgerton; Steve Winter and Ken Fried, Winter-Fried Associates. This year's directors are: Peter Alafoginis, Bay State Beef; Jeff Dieringer, Dieringer, O'Marra, Palmer & Sunderland; Rick MacPherson, Hayman Cash Register; Mike Minnig, American-Potomac Distributing; and, Andy Ockershausen, WMAL.●

MIKLOS DURAY

HON. ROBERT K. DORNAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 1985

● Mr. DORNAN of California. Mr. Speaker, Communist governments adamantly disregard human rights, even those anchored in their constitutions in international agreements. An outstanding example of their disdain for human rights is the continuing arrest and detention of Miklos Duray, Czechoslovak citizen of Hungarian nationality.

Mr. Duray, a geologist and writer from Bratislava, the Slovak region of the country, was first arrested for having published in Hungarian in New York in 1982 a book of his own reminiscences on the fire of Hungarians in Czechoslovakia. He was subsequently arrested, charged, and after 1 day of trial, his hearing was discontinued and he was released.

When, in early 1984, the Slovak Ministry of Education presented a draft law to the Slovak regional parliament which included, among others, the provision that by establishing commissions whose recommendations would have to be followed by the Ministry—excluding consultations with parents—the ministry may close Hungarian classes in the various schools of Slovakia—where about 700,000 citizens of Hungarian nationality reside—Mr. Duray went to work to protest the provisions. He succeeded in organizing 11,000 parents against the draft law which was then amended to exclude the controversial provisions. Mr. Duray had the constitutional right to do so, as the 1968 constitution guarantees the right of education in the mother tongue. But he was subsequently arrested and held incommunicado for months and remains in prison under formal charges of sedition, incitement, and slander against the republic, to this day.

Mr. Duray is not just an average dissident in Czechoslovakia. He was a signer of CARTA 77 together with Czech and Slovak intellectuals. Four prominent Slovak intellectuals also protested his arrest to both President Husak and the Premier of the Slovak Government in Bratislava. He is also the unofficial leader of the 700,000 Hungarians of Slovakia and had created an organization called the Committee for the Defense of the Rights of the Hungarian Minority. This group informed us through a samizdat publication of the continuing repressive and intimidating actions of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and the Government against anyone who dares to speak the truth and right for justice in the state.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the distinguished gentleman from California [Mr. LANTOS] and the distinguished gentleman from Illinois [Mr.

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PORTER] for having initiated in July 1984 a letter over 38 signatures to President Husak condemning the arrest and Mr. LANTOS for having sponsored this colloquium on the continuing arrest and detention of Miklos Duray. We all urge the President and the Secretary of State to use whatever leverage we may yet have with Prague to effect the liberation of Mr. Duray and call upon my colleagues to join us in denouncing this shameful deed of human and national rights deprivation and violation in Czechoslovakia. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.●

HONORING JOSEPH RUBIN AND THE YOUNG ISRAEL OF HILLCREST

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 1985

● Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the accomplishments of the Young Israel of Hillcrest, on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. Since its inception, this synagogue has inspired and served the entire community and all of Queens County, NY.

Today, its more than 1,500 members include a vast array of doctors, lawyers, educators, and business leaders whose influence is felt throughout the length and breadth of our Nation.

Joseph Rubin, the Young Israel's "Man of the Year," epitomizes this standard of excellence in community service. During his term as president, he inspired the Young Israel to many achievements on behalf of all of the citizens in Queens. His concern for the younger generation motivated him to serve as president of the Samuel H. Wang Yeshiva High School of Queens, and on the board of directors of the Yeshiva of Central Queens and Yeshiva Dov Revel. The support of his wife, Rosalind, and their children, Arleen and Barry, has amplified his success in all these endeavors.

The Young Israel's roster of distinguished officers is symbolic of its members' unique commitment to American society and Jewish values. Danny Hiller, its dynamic president, is known nationally for his efforts on behalf of humanitarian causes, both here and abroad. Its vice presidents, Moshe Gantz, Alvin Warshaviak, and Ralph Sherman, participate actively in many facets of community service. Mr. Gantz was instrumental in the organization of the Hatzolah Emergency Ambulance Service in Hillcrest; Mr. Warshaviak, whose genius and devotion generated the Queens Purim Parade, represents his neighbors on the local planning board; and Mr. Sherman is well-known and highly esteemed for his integrity and tireless service in the community. The treasur-

er, Shopsy Kanarek, works for several educational institutions devotedly. Marc Katz, the financial secretary; Stanley Nussbaum, the recording secretary; and Sol Gelernter, the corresponding secretary, are active in many other charities and causes. Dr. Maurice Ballabon, the chairman of the board, is an economics scholar of international repute.

The spiritual leader of the Young Israel, Rabbi Simcha Krauss, is the perfect complement to this distinguished congregation. An outstanding Talmudic scholar, he is respected for his humility and humanity as much as for his learning. May these many accomplishments herald another quarter century of good works on behalf of the Queens community, the State of New York, and the entire Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of the Members of the United States House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to the Young Israel of Hillcrest on its 25th anniversary.●

THE FUTURE OF CIVIL RIGHTS/CIVIL LIBERTIES IN MICRONESIA

HON. MERVYN M. DYMALLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 1985

● Mr. DYMALLY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acquaint my colleagues in the House of Representatives with a matter of concern to many residents in Micronesia. Shortly, Congress will be considering the Micronesian Compact; the product of over one decade of complex negotiations. Without question, the United States should relinquish its colonial-style hold on the Micronesian region, particularly in the Marshall and Caroline Islands. It is the last area of the globe that America maintains within a colonial framework, that is, the aging United Nations mandate system. The Compact promises a bright future for many Pacific islands, and it is time for the U.S. Government to usher in this new era of harmony and peace.

Despite our assurances of a coming new era there are still concerns in the islands that the Compact does not address certain issues as strongly as it should. Health is one of those issues, and I have introduced legislation to improve the health care of the region. Another issue is civil rights/civil liberties, and it deserves greater attention by the Congress as well. For some time, we have heard tales of a military fallback to Micronesia should difficulties in the Philippines result in the closing of U.S. military installations there. Some islanders fear that the Compact could lead to a larger U.S. military presence than exists today; a presence that will require land expropriation and population shifts.

Given the history of forced population relocations in the Pacific, and the sometimes weak military islander relations, the House of Representatives, as does Micronesia, needs assurances that the people of this region will enjoy full civil rights/civil liberties regardless of Congress' decision on the Micronesian Compact. Let us assure the Pacific islanders, as we have attempted to assure our friends in the Caribbean, that America stands for justice, fair play, and full democratic rights.●

TAKE SOCIAL SECURITY OFF THE BUDGET

HON. ALFRED A. (AL) McCANDLESS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 1985

● Mr. McCANDLESS. Mr. Speaker, it is time to depoliticize Social Security. Every year as Congress begins to grapple with the formulation of a Federal budget, the Social Security system becomes a political football. The result is great concern and alarm among our senior citizens. This is totally unnecessary.

When it was established, the Social Security Administration was independent, and the benefits were to be provided from an independent trust fund. Over the years, Social Security has been represented to the public as a separate trust fund, but since fiscal year 1969 Social Security's financial operations have been included in the unified Federal budget.

When President Johnson proposed the larger unified budget in 1967, the announced objective was to simplify the portrayal of the financial matters of the Federal Government. Its immediate result was the masking of the escalating costs of the "Great Society" programs and of the war in Vietnam.

When the Congress passed the Social Security reform bill in 1983, a provision was included to take Social Security, and the hospital insurance portion of the Medicare program, out of the unified budget—but it is not effective until fiscal year 1993.

We should not wait that long. Changes in the Social Security and Medicare programs should be made exclusively on the basis of the objectives and financial constraints of these programs, not because of the economic policy goals or budgetary constraints of the Federal Government as a whole.

I am today introducing a bill to change the effective date to apply to fiscal years after fiscal year 1986. I invite my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.●